

26 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT:** Meeting of Interdepartmental Materials Advisory Committee  
(IMAC) 19 September 1961

**REFERENCES:** a. Letter from Acting Director of Central Intelligence  
to Honorable Frank B. Ellis dated 9 September 1961

b. Letter from Acting Director of Central Intelligence  
to Honorable Stewart Symington dated 14 September 1961

1. The meeting was called by OGDW to obtain views on whether that information on the National Stock Pile program which is now classified should remain classified or be declassified. Mr. Frank B. Ellis, Director of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, was in the chair. Also present were Mr. Dutton of the White House Staff, several representatives from OGDW and representatives from State, Defense, Agriculture, GSA, ICA, AEC, Interior, Commerce, Bureau of the Budget, Small Business Administration, and CIA.

2. Information on inventories of non-specification grade materials and on inventories with no current or probable stockpile objectives has already been declassified. The following information, covering 3/4 of the total stockpile, remains classified:

- a. Stockpile objectives for upgraded forms of material (SECRET).
- b. Actual amount of specification grade material in the stockpile, if an objective has been established (SECRET).
- c. Stockpile procurement directives (CONFIDENTIAL).
- d. Location of stockpiles and amount at each location (CONFIDENTIAL).
- e. Basic data sheets used to compute stockpile objectives (CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET).
- f. System for factoring supply and requirements for strategic materials (SECRET).

3. Mr. Ellis opened the meeting by providing some background information. Mr. Brewton, Assistant Director for Resources and

Production, OGDN, then summarized certain staff studies being undertaken in OGDN to establish the pros and cons of declassification. Mr. Brewton also summarized the positions of several agencies, including CIA. He noted that CIA had said (Reference a) that CIA would very much like to have stockpile information on the USSR and that the classified information pertaining to US stockpiles would be of at least some limited intelligence value to the USSR. It seemed clear from his presentation and later comments that Mr. Brewton was against declassification.

4. Mr. Ellis then called on those present to express their views. I confirmed the statement made by Mr. Brewton, but added that we were not necessarily against declassification. We felt that if there were good and sufficient policy reasons for declassifying information on US stockpiles, we did not consider the matter important enough to take a stand against declassification. I also said that we were not an Agency with a direct departmental interest in the question and that we were for that reason not members of the committee.

5. Only the representative of the Small Business Administration expressed outright opposition to declassification, citing broad national security grounds. The representative of the Atomic Energy Commission did not object to declassification per se but indicated that information on certain commodities for which the AEC had a classified use would have to remain classified. The representative of the Defense Department suggested that it might be easier to declassify information on actual quantities than on stockpile objectives, and recommended that information on the actual location of various stockpiles not be declassified because this would complicate problems of physical security. The other representatives did not object to declassification.

6. At the close of the meeting, Mr. Ellis thanked those present for their frank expression of views and implied that the decision about classification might be made by the President. Mr. Dutton of the White House Staff made no remarks at any time during the meeting.

Assistant to the DG/I (NSC)

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cc: 1 - DCI  
1 - DDGI  
1 - AD/RR  
1 - KIC/S  
1 - Legislative Counsel